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News from the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress Geography and Map Division computer-assisted map cataloging project (MARC Maps), initiated in 1968 with a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Inc., currently has a data base of more than 83,000 machine-readable records. From this data base, shelflist cards, filing and retrieval slips, on-demand computer listings, selected dissemination of information bibliographies, and bibliographic citations for the National Union Catalog: Cartographic Materials are generated. A batch-mode input operation using terminals was implemented. After five years in development, an online input/update application became available in March 1984. In support of the new application, the MUMS Conversion Manual for MARC Maps was prepared to document the application and use of content designation for MARC Maps records. This new system allows for more efficient maintenance of the data base through faster correction time and more computer validation and checking of the record. Access to data contained in machine-readable form is available throughout the United States and Canada via network utilities such as OCLC. The magnetic tapes may be ordered from the Cataloging Distribution Service of the Library of Congress.

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